



**JIM DOYLE**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

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October 18, 2005

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

THROUGH

Ms. Janet Odesloo  
Acting Regional Director  
Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region V  
536 South Clark Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60605-1521

Dear Mr. President:

This is to formally appeal the denial of a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Wisconsin on behalf of Dane, Richland and Vernon counties which were impacted by severe storms and tornadoes on August 18, 2005. This appeal is for all three counties for the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs, as well as the Individual Assistance Programs enumerated in my original request of August 25, 2005.

I appreciate the thorough investigation that FEMA staff did in conjunction with Wisconsin Emergency Management and local officials to ascertain the extent and nature of needs to the public and private sectors. I believe the summary of the PDA, conducted August 23 and 24, and captured in my August 25<sup>th</sup> request letter, is basically accurate. Since then we have uncovered additional damage to the Richland County Electric Cooperative; it was originally estimated at \$41,000 and actually turned out to be \$149,992.

I respectfully disagree, however, with your conclusion that this disaster is within the capabilities of this State and the affected local governments and must firmly reiterate the need for supplementary federal assistance. Now, almost two months after the disaster, there are still unmet needs to both the public and private sectors that could and must be addressed through a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

I stand firmly on my original contention that when viewed both as a singular incident and in the context of the repeated storm events the State of Wisconsin has experienced this year this situation is beyond our capabilities. The per capita losses

for the counties, Dane (\$4.82), Richland (\$40.86) and Vernon (\$7.55) are significant and well above the required threshold, especially Richland County. The per capita losses for the impacted municipalities are even more significant, ranging from a high of almost \$985.00 per capita in the Village of Viola in Richland and Vernon counties to a low of \$3.41 per capita in the Town of Dunkirk in Dane County. These are devastating losses for the municipalities, in some cases exceeding their entire annual budgets.

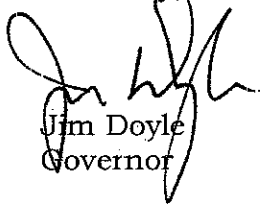
On a statewide level, the State has experienced seven other significant disaster events this year, for which no federal assistance was requested. The estimated public assistance costs for these disasters are set at more than \$4.1 million (see attachment 1). Most recently, we experienced flooding on October 3 through 6 in northwestern Wisconsin where public sector losses alone are estimated at more than \$1.6 million. Some of the damage to roads will be covered under the State's Flood Damage Aid Program. Otherwise, the costs will be borne by the sparsely populated rural communities of northwestern Wisconsin.

The citizens of Wisconsin are fiercely proud and independent; they do not expect handouts. If they can recover on their own or with the help of their families and friends, they will. They do not often expect help from the federal government and are reluctant to ask for it, even in the most difficult of times. The State of Wisconsin and its counties have always shouldered the burdens that are rightfully theirs. Now, however, I believe federal assistance is needed and warranted.

I, therefore, request that you re-evaluate the information in my August 25, 2005 request letter and make the Individual Assistance, Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs available, as specified, for Dane, Richland and Vernon counties. Should you have further questions or need additional information, please contact Johnnie Smith, Governor's Authorized Representative or Diane Kleiboer, State Coordinating Officer at 608-242-3232.

Thank you for your prompt reconsideration.

Sincerely,



Jim Doyle  
Governor

### Attachment 1

#### 2005 Wisconsin Disasters Where No Federal Assistance Was Requested

<u>Date of Incident</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Counties Impacted</u>	<u>Public Sector Damages</u>
October 3, 4 & 5	Flooding	Barron	225,500
		Rusk	792,650
		Douglas	Still Assessing
		Ashland	10,346
		Bayfield	345,000
		Burnett	232,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,605,496</b>

<u>Date of Incident</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Counties Impacted</u>	<u>Public Sector Damages</u>
September 13	Strong Winds/ Heavy Rains	Ashland	47,612
		Outagamie	240,000
		Brown	17,286
		Bayfield	280,000
		Polk	4,000
		LaCrosse	550
		Winnebago	7,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>596,448</b>

<u>Date of Incident</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Counties Impacted</u>	<u>Public Sector Damages</u>
July 23	Winds/ Flooding	Clark	100,000
		Chippewa	40,000
		Walworth	10,000
		Jackson	58,000
		Bayfield	200,000
		Eau Claire	170,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>578,000</b>

<u>Date of Incident</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Counties Impacted</u>	<u>Public Sector Damages</u>
June 29 & 30	Severe storms & tornadoes	Barron	264,671
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>264,671</b>

<u>Date of Incident</u>	<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Counties Impacted</u>	<u>Public Sector Damages</u>
March 30	Flash Flooding	Pierce	52,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>52,000</b>

- The Watertown Tire Fire occurred in July. Mutual aid assistance from surrounding fire departments exceeded \$1 million
- The Cottonville Fire in Adams County occurred in May and the municipalities incurred \$30,000 in costs for emergency protective measures and the State Department of Natural Resources incurred significant firefighting costs.